

Hello;

I have recently heard of efforts by Sinclair Broadcasting to influence the outcome of the Presidential Election by forcing their stations to preempt regular programming in order to show a smear piece on candidate John Kerry.

It is very disturbing that a single organization is capable of distorting democracy in such a manner, and I think this case clearly illustrates the dangers of media consolidation. When a single corporation can impose its views on communities across the country, it has the opportunity to promote its corporate interests at the expense of local interests.

Therefore, I believe that the rules limiting media ownership need to be strengthened, not weakened. This episode makes clear the dangers inherent in allowing one owner to control so many stations.